45. The method of claim **41**, wherein said second *Bacillus* species strain contains less than two naturally occurring plasmids.

46. The method according to claim **45**, wherein said *Bacillus* species strain is EG 10650.

47. The method of claim **45**, wherein said less than two naturally occurring plasmids is selectively tagged with an identifiable marker gene.

48. The method according to claim **47**, wherein said marker gene is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic resistance gene, a gene encoding an essential metabolic or catabolic protein or functional homologue thereof, a gene conferring bioluminescence properties, and a gene encoding an enzyme which catalyzes the metabolism of a substrate which imparts a colored product deposited on or within the *Bacillus* species strain.

49-50. (canceled)

51. A method for screening one or more bacterial plasmid DNA sequences, the method comprising:

a) isolating and purifying bacterial plasmid DNA;

b) generating a library comprising one or more bacterial plasmid DNA sequences from the isolated and purified bacterial plasmid DNA;

c) sequencing the library to obtain a set of bacterial plasmid DNA sequences; and

d) determining if the plasmid DNA sequence is a novel sequence by comparing the set of bacterial plasmid DNA sequences to a database comprising a plurality of nucleotide sequences.

52. The method of claim **51**, wherein said bacterial plasmid DNA is plasmid DNA of *Bacillus thuringiensis* and said bacterial plasmid DNA sequence is plasmid DNA sequence of *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

53. The method of claim **52**, wherein said database comprises a set of chromosomal DNA sequences of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, wherein said set of chromosomal DNA sequences comprises the sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO:8283.

54. The method of claim **53**, wherein said determining step d) further comprises:

1) identifying common sequences in both the set of plasmid DNA sequences and the set of chromosomal DNA sequences;

2) subtracting the common sequences from the set of plasmid DNA sequences to obtain a subtracted set of plasmid DNA sequences;

3) assembling the substracted set of plasmid DNA sequences to contigs and sequences; and

4) determining open reading frames in the contigs and sequences.

55. A method for identifying one or more novel genes encoding insect inhibitory proteins in one or more plasmid DNA sequences of a *Bacillus* species, the method comprising:

1) screening one or more plasmid DNA sequences of the *Bacillus* species according to any one of claims **51** to **54**; and

2) identifying one or more novel genes encoding insect inhibitory proteins in said one or more plasmid DNA sequences of the *Bacillus* species.

* * * * *